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August 1, 2003

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BY ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Interim Report of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority
FRN 0001726488**

CC Docket No. 94-102

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I have attached the Interim Report of the American Samoa
Telecommunications Authority regarding deployment of Enhanced 911 service.

Kindly direct communications regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela E. Giancarlo

*Counsel to the American Samoa
Telecommunications Authority*

Enclosures

cc: Mr. John Muleta
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Mr. David Solomon
Chief, Enforcement Bureau

Giancarlo, Angela E.

From: Giancarlo, Angela E.

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 12:05 PM

To: 'E911compliancereports@fcc.gov'

Cc: Giancarlo, Angela E.

Subject: CC Docket No. 94-102 / 8-01-03 Interim Report of

I have attached the above-referenced filing for the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority.

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**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Revision of the Commission's Rules To)	
Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911)	CC Docket No. 94-102
Emergency Calling Systems)	
)	
Phase II Compliance Deadlines for)	
Non-Nationwide CMRS Carriers)	
)	

Interim Report of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority

The American Samoa Telecommunications Authority ("ASTCA"), by counsel and pursuant to the *Order to Stay* released by the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") on July 26, 2002, 1/ hereby submits its Interim Report regarding the deployment of Enhanced 911 ("E911") service. 2/ As discussed below, although ASTCA will meet the Commission's initial E911 benchmark by commencing sales of location-capable handsets by September 1, 2003, given the unique constraints it faces, ASTCA cannot predict with certainty that it will meet the Commission's subsequent benchmarks related to the activation of new location-capable handsets.

1/ Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Phase II Compliance Deadlines for Non-Nationwide CMRS Carriers, 17 FCC Rcd 14841 (2002).

2/ At Exhibit A, we have attached the declaration of Aleki Sene, Executive Director of ASTCA, attesting to the veracity of the instant Interim Report. See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Provides Guidance on Interim Report Filings by Small Sized Carriers, *Public Notice*, ____ FCC Rcd ____, DA 03-2113 (rel. June 30, 2003) ("*Guidance Public Notice*") at 2.

Introduction and background. ASTCA is a wireline and wireless carrier for American Samoa, an unincorporated territory of the United States, located more than 4,100 miles southwest of San Francisco and about 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii. The small island-based territory has a population of about 60,000 people. Approximately 95 percent of the population live on the main island of Tutuila, less than one percent live on the island of Aunu'u, and less than four percent live in the Manu'a island group (consisting of the islands of Ofu, Olosega and Tau). Per capita income in American Samoa is \$3,309 per year. ASTCA provides cellular telephone service using an analog (AMPS) system and a digital CDMA system, both of which were manufactured by Motorola. ASTCA's approximately 700 analog wireless subscribers and 1,300 digital wireless subscribers (with dual-mode capability) pay \$10.00 per month for basic service plus 10 cents per minute for local calls.

The Commission has defined ASTCA as a Tier III wireless carrier. 3/ In addition, ASTCA has notified the Commission of its intent to deploy a handset-based location technology. 4/ Accordingly, ASTCA must meet the following benchmarks: 5/

1. Without respect to any PSAP request for deployment of Phase II 911 enhanced service, the licensee shall:
 - (i) Begin selling and activating location-capable handsets no later than September 1, 2003;

3/ *Order to Stay*, 17 FCC Rcd at 14848 ¶ 23, 14856 Appendix A.

4/ American Samoa Telecommunications Authority Request for Waiver of the E911 Phase II Rules, CC Docket No. 94-102 (filed Nov. 30, 2001) ("ASTCA Waiver Request") at 2.

5/ *Order to Stay*, 17 FCC Rcd at 14851 ¶ 33.

- (ii) Ensure that at least 25 percent of all new handsets activated are location-capable no later than November 30, 2003;
 - (iii) Ensure that at least 50 percent of all new handsets are location-capable no later than May 31, 2004;
 - (iv) Ensure that 100 percent of all new digital handsets activated are location-capable no later than November 30, 2004.
 - (v) Ensure that penetration of location-capable handsets among its subscribers reaches 95 percent no later than December 31, 2005.
2. Once a PSAP request is received, the licensee shall, in the area served by the PSAP, within six months or by September 1, 2003, whichever is later:
- (i) Install any hardware and/or software in the CMRS network and/or other fixed infrastructure, as needed, to enable the provision of Phase II enhanced 911 service; and
 - (ii) Begin delivering Phase II enhanced 911 service to the PSAP.

Against this backdrop and pursuant to the *Guidance Public Notice*,

ASTCA hereby provides the Commission with information on the following matters:

(1) the number of Phase I and Phase II requests it has received from PSAPs; (2) the wireless carrier's specific technology choice; (3) status on ordering and/or installing necessary network equipment; (4) information on the status of obtaining ALI-capable handsets; (5) the estimated date on which Phase II service will first be available in the wireless carrier's network; and (6) information on whether the wireless carrier is on schedule to meet the ultimate implementation date of December 31, 2005.

1. Number of Phase I and Phase II requests from PSAP. The American Samoa Department of Public Safety is the only PSAP in the entire territory

of American Samoa. As of July 31, 2003, the PSAP has not requested either Phase I or Phase II E911.

At Exhibit B, we have attached: (1) a copy of a March 8, 2001 letter from then-Commissioner of Public Safety, Te'o J. Fuavai, to ASTCA, which confirms that the PSAP has not made any Phase I or Phase II E911 requests of ASTCA; and (2) a copy of ASTCA's July 23, 2003 letter to the current Commissioner of Public Safety, Tuiteleleapaga Peseta F. Ioane, seeking an update on the PSAP's intentions with respect to E911 deployment. As of the date of this filing, however, ASTCA has not received a response from Commissioner Ioane.

2. Technology choice. ASTCA has selected a handset-based solution that utilizes Assisted-GPS ("A-GPS") technology.

3. Status on ordering and installing necessary network equipment. In September 2001, ASTCA commenced digital operations with a Motorola-manufactured switch employing Code Division Multiple Access ("CDMA") technology. As described in ASTCA's Waiver Request, ASTCA's efforts to comply with the E911 mandate were met with non-committal responses from Motorola, as well as a staggering \$5.6 million price quote for the necessary network overhaul. 6/

In May 2003, ASTCA completed negotiations and entered into an agreement with Nortel Networks ("Nortel") for the purchase and installation of necessary network equipment that will render ASTCA's wireless network E911-capable. The price for the Nortel upgrade is \$2.9 million, far less than the price

6/ ASTCA Waiver Request at 6-7.

quoted by Motorola. However, the Nortel upgrade will require a complete replacement of ASTCA's Motorola system.

Accordingly, ASTCA anticipates that it will encounter problems during the conversion from Motorola's CDMA system to Nortel's MTX CDMA system. For instance, the cutover will require use of the same frequency spectrum and the existing antennas due to tower loading and related costs. This means that ASTCA will have to power down its system in order to conduct preliminary testing of the new Nortel system. This power down will take place at ASTCA's seven indoor cell sites, as well as its eight outdoor cell sites. With respect to the outdoor cell sites, ASTCA will have to completely shut down power due to space and power requirements – a process that will likely result in no service to or from these cell sites for approximately 24 hours (from the time the work begins until each site is fully replaced with the Nortel equipment). This is one example of a major issue that ASTCA will have to address, but it is by no means the only problem that may arise during the conversion.

With respect to timing for the installation of the new upgrades, Nortel has indicated to ASTCA that shipment of the Nortel equipment, from San Antonio, Texas to American Samoa, is currently scheduled for December 2003. Nortel has further indicated that it will begin installing the equipment in February 2004. Finally, Nortel has indicated to ASTCA that, barring any unforeseen difficulties, Nortel should complete installation of its equipment by May 2004.

4. Status on obtaining ALI-capable handsets. ASTCA is pleased to report that it has finally secured an order of location-capable cellular telephones.

ASTCA placed its initial order for 100 Audiovox 9155 handsets with Ohm International Corporation of Houston, Texas (“Ohm”) on July 17, 2003. As of the date of this filing, Ohm has advised that the handsets have been air freighted to American Samoa. ASTCA therefore expects to offer the Audiovox 9155 handsets to its customers in early August – as soon as the handsets arrive on-island. Thus, ASTCA should be able to begin selling and activating new location-capable handsets by September 1, 2003, pursuant to the initial E911 compliance benchmark applicable for Tier III carriers.

Since commencing digital wireless operations in September 2001, ASTCA has sold approximately 1,000 digital handsets to its customers, none of which have been location-capable. These non-location-capable handsets include the Motorola T182C, Ericsson 1228C, Audiovox CDM-3300, Audiovox CDM-135 and Audiovox CMP3. The Audiovox 9155 handset is the first and only location-capable handset that ASTCA will sell; however, ASTCA will also continue to sell non-location-capable handsets.

ASTCA currently sells non-location-capable handsets at a cost of approximately \$120.00 per handset. The location-capable Audiovox 9155 handset will cost ASTCA \$151.89 per unit. (This price does not include shipping costs, nor does it include local excise taxes.) ASTCA intends to offer the Audiovox 9155 handsets to its customers for approximately \$160.00 per unit. However, given American Samoa’s annual per capita income of \$3,309, this 35 percent price increase will likely depress sales of the Audiovox 9155 handsets. Moreover, ASTCA will not be in a position to

actively market the location-capable handsets, given the fact that American Samoa's PSAP has no immediate or future plans to seek E911 location information for wireless customers, or to perform the related necessary upgrades to its own network. Under the circumstances, it makes little sense to force American Samoa consumers – who earn far less than their U.S. mainland counterparts – to purchase the higher priced Audiovox 9155 handsets, which they may never be able to use for E911 purposes. Thus, ASTCA may have difficulty meeting the next Tier III carrier benchmark, which requires that at least 25 percent of all new handsets activated are location-capable no later than November 30, 2003, as well as all subsequent benchmarks.

5. Estimated date of Phase II service availability. As discussed earlier, ASTCA estimates that it will be in a position to provide Phase II services by May 2004 (upon Nortel's completion of the necessary network equipment upgrades). However, it remains unclear whether the PSAP will request Phase II E911 location information from ASTCA, and even if such a request is made, whether it would be considered "valid" under the Commission's *City of Richardson* criteria. ^{7/}

6. Expectations regarding December 31, 2005 benchmark.

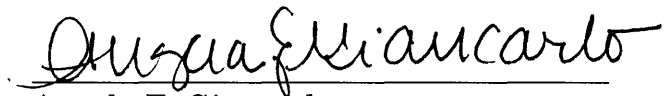
Although ASTCA anticipates that it will be in a position to provide Phase II E911 service by May 2004, the company cannot speculate as to whether or when its PSAP will issue a valid request for Phase II E911 location information. Given this unknown factor, which will adversely impact the marketing of the location-capable Audiovox

^{7/} See Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Petition of the City of Richardson, Texas, *Order on Reconsideration*, 17 FCC Rcd 24282 (2002).

9155 handset, ASTCA cannot at this time state with certainty that it will meet the December 31, 2005 benchmark.

Conclusion. As a government-owned service provider, ASTCA treats public interest obligations very seriously and is working in good faith to implement E911 service in a manner that is consistent with the Commission's policy and rules. As stated above, ASTCA fully expects to meet the initial Tier III carrier benchmark by commencing sales of location-capable handsets before September 1, 2003. However, given the unique constraints it faces, ASTCA cannot predict with certainty that it will meet the Commission's subsequent Tier III carrier benchmarks related to the activation of new location-capable handsets. Nonetheless, mindful of its obligation under Section 1.65 of the Commission's rules, ASTCA intends to keep the Commission apprised of its progress on E911 implementation.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela E. Giancarlo
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*Counsel to the American Samoa
Telecommunications Authority*

July 31, 2003

Exhibit A

DECLARATION

I, Aleki Sene, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that I am Executive Director of the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority, that I am authorized to make this declaration on its behalf, and that the facts stated in the foregoing Interim Report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

By: 
ALEKI SENE
Executive Director
American Samoa Telecommunications
Authority

Executed on July 31, 2003.

Exhibit B



HON. TAOESE P.F. SUNIA
Governor

HON. TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

P.O. Box 1086, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Telephone: (684) 633-1111 • Fax No.: (684) 633-7296



TE'O J. FUAVAI
Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

March 8, 2001

Mr. Larry E. Gattis
Vice President
American Samoa Licenses, Inc.
P.O. Box 478
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799



Serial: 55-2001

Dear Mr. Gattis:

Thank you for your letter of inquiry into the Enhanced 911 dated March 6, 2001. I apologize for not having responded to your earlier inquiries.

You know that we currently have a "911" system that is very old as compared the current E911 in the states. The reason is that the equipment to modernize our 911 is expensive and that it would take an excess of \$250,000 to probable take us through Phase I and II that you mentioned.

To answer your questions:

- (1) Yes. The Department of Public Safety is the designated PSA or Public Safety Answering Point for American Samoa. We currently use a phone system.
- (2) Yes. DPS, headquartered at the Police Headquarters Building in Fagatogo, is responsible for planning and implementing the E911 Phases I and II for American Samoa.
- (3) Plans have not been made to go beyond our current landline network because sources of funding have not yet been identified. When funds are available, I'm not sure that ASLI or ASTCA will be asked to implement these advancements.

To answer the rest of your questions, it is not clear at this time where the funds will be coming from. I will be requesting this month two sources for the funds.

I will keep you posted on any future development. I appreciate your interest in advancing our response capabilities to emergencies.

Sincerely yours,

TE'O J. FUAVAI
Commissioner

cc: Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde - General Manager ASLI

**American Samoa Telecommunications
Authority
Box M
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799**

in reply refer to:

Serial: 220-03
ASTCA: 11

July 23, 2003

Hon. Tuiteleleapaga Peseta F. Ioane
Commissioner of Public Safety
American Samoa Government
P. O. Box 1086
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Commissioner:

The American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to file a report by August 01, 2003 regarding the status of its compliance with benchmarks mandated for provision of Enhanced 911 (E911) services. One of the elements required for the report is the number of Phase I and/or Phase II requests that ASTCA has received from the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been designated the PSAP for American Samoa. For your convenience, I have attached a copy of a letter from your predecessor, dated March 8, 2001, regarding DPS's efforts to obtain necessary funding to properly equip DPS as the PSAP. Although DPS still has not made any requests to ASTCA for Phase I or Phase II E911, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. Has DPS acquired funding for the necessary E911 equipment?
2. Do you anticipate that DPS will ask ASTCA (or Blue Sky) to implement Phase I and Phase II E911?

Your responses to these questions will assist ASTCA in its effort to prepare and file its report with the FCC, a copy of which we will be pleased to provide to you should you wish. Your consideration in responding by July 31st is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


ALEKI SENE
Executive Director

Attach.